



## Graduate Students' Attitudes toward Using E-Books: Quetta Perspective

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### Keywords

*Electronic books,  
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**Abstract:** *The present study attempts to investigate various aspects of e-books in the students' opinions at various Quetta universities. The purpose of the study is to examine the attitude of graduate students towards the use of e-books. The data was collected using the survey technique. Principle author collected the data from postgraduate students at the universities of Quetta regarding their usage of e-books. A quantitative method was used to interpret the data. The data were analyzed using SPSS (v.23). The study's findings revealed that all e-books were easily accessible on the internet. A maximum of the students was aware of the resources of the HEC digital library. Most of the students also faced many challenges while searching for e-books online. No previous study has been reported investigating users' perspectives of e-books in an academic environment in Quetta. Most studies have focused on the availability of e-books and their attributes. This study contributes to the literature on this vital aspect of research and makes sound, practical information available*

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# *Graduate Students' Attitudes toward Using E-Books: Quetta Perspective*

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## **Introduction**

First, the electronic book (e-book) emerged in 1971 through Gutenberg's digital library project for books from public the domain (Ardito, 2000). Various researches show that the maximum age for e-books is 40 years (Ardito, and Alan Kay, 2000). Internet rapidly increased with the invention of the World Wide Web (WWW), which credit went to Tim Berners Lee in 1990. From 1994 onward, the internet speeded worldwide in a swift manner. According to a US statistics report, the sales revenue or income received from e-books between 2008 and 2014 increased by 3556.4 million. Such statements and other studies make it clear that e-book is attaining more popularity with the passing of every day while becoming one of the essential sources of information delivery (Statista, 2015).

A survey conducted in 2008 regarding the existence and usage of e-books was quite interesting; the queries were, does your library have e-books? And do you know what an e-book is? Among them, 3713 said yes, 2173 responded do not know, 3132 never replied, where 7090 stated where to find e-books, while 1420 responses were in full preference for printed books (Ebrary, 2008a). Doiron (2011) indicated that a new format of reading material has opened new prospects for accessing more people. He suggested that institutions and especially libraries should consider a great advantage of this situation to promote reading habits.

Larson (2009) suggested that better-designed e-books strengthen the readers' better interpretation of their texts. In 2009, several comprehensive surveys were conducted on rapidly increasing activities on e-books in the market. These surveys investigated e-book usage and investigated such devices and tools that were helpful in the utilization of e-books.

A report on e-books from Elsevier is sufficient to clarify that 40 researchers have adopted this technology while giving access to its users through various websites and digital libraries. A study also pointed out that between 2008 to 2010, a Malaysian University had crossed the downloading records of complete full text, which is 180,000. A statistical report from the UK states that "the usage of the e-book has increased to (79%) (Siwa, 2011).

## **Research Methodology**

This study uses quantitative methods were applied for the regarding factual data collection. This study has structured questionnaire were used to collect qualitative data. A pilot study will be taken to test the applicability of questionnaire. The e pilot test was conducted on 60 students' a small sample of 10 students from each University. The questionnaire has been distributed among 300 respondents by self from the five universities of Quetta, namely the University of Balochistan. Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University,

Namal University, Balochistan University of information Technology engineering and management science, and Al-Ahamd University.

The population of this study was only five University students of Quetta city.

### **Literature Review**

The consciousness and adoption regarding e-books were rapidly increased in 2006 and about more than 50% of users were found aware of the usage of the e-book (Lavine, 2006; Springer, 2008; Shellburne, 2009).

As far the stages of the utilization of e-book are concerned so seem a coherence among works of different researchers as discussed in the literature that level higher-level usage of the e-book has been carried out by engineers, computer scientists, and other related to business and economic sectors. Among mentioned field fields, the usage of the e-books at the highest levels. The usage of e-books was more common than print forms (Dilleon, 2001; Nelson & Neil, 2001). However, the satisfaction level from social scientists and humanity groups seems at a lower level (Staiger, 2012).

Shelburne (2009) established that 41% are those who have lack of awareness on the availability of e-books (p. 61). While Abdullah and Gibb (2008) concluded the user's unawareness is due to their lack of commitment towards e-books it has not been rightly advertised and encouraged (p. 593). Similarly, many studies have emphasized the publicizing and rapid promotion of electronic books via academic libraries, and the website which would be the speediest channels in marketing e-book (Rowlands et al., 2007, p. 508).

According to Bailey's (2006) study, e-book readership is expanding because it assists users in synthesising complex information within topic areas. Christianson and Aucoin (2005), on the other hand, found substantial variances based on subject and respondent categories. Furthermore, Williams and Best (2006) revealed variations in e-book usage among Auburn University students studying political science, public administration, and law.

Zhang and Kudva (2014) recently showed that print and e-book formats met user information needs but differed depending on demographic, situational, and other contextual characteristics. However, due of their ease of access, e-books have gained higher status by fast meeting user information needs, but they have yet to displace print books' better position. According to Elias et al. (2012), around 78.7 percent of pupils and 84 percent of teachers chose to utilize printed books, with little interest in embracing e-books. This low proclivity could be due to the fact that e-books are employed for a variety of causes and objectives. However, Daniel and Woody (2013) discovered that e-textbooks are a comparable alternative for paper textbooks in academic libraries.

Herlihy and Yi (2010) determined that the usage patterns of their library's Safari package have been increasing over time, despite the fact that their EBSCO e-books reported decreasing use of the science and technology

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collection in recent years. However, in order to increase e-book adoption, a long-term plan and effective policies are required (Ghosh,2004). According to Hernon et al. (2007), medical, economic, and literature students at Simmons College in Boston used e-books for a variety of objectives. Slater (2009), on the other hand, discovered no association between print and e-book usage trends. Craft and Bedi (2004) concluded that 47% of users interact with e-books for research objectives, (47.5%) for speedy knowledge, and (22.43%) for their proposed reading, and 15% of go through it from getting pleasure.

Many e-book consumers access it via Google Books and other databases. It is used for research (58.7 percent) and for general study (57.2 percent) (Akpokodje and Ukwuoma, 2015).

Woody et al. (2010) discovered that "people who have the expertise of using e-books nevertheless prefer printed books" in their study of two reading habits with the same content (print versus screen). The same findings were discovered in the study conducted by Stoop et al (2013), who also note out that the print version is still quite popular among readers and learners.

Studies also found that there a large number of users exist whose most preferred area is printed materials rather than e-textbook, but they did like the convenience of the electronic formats (Walton, 2004; Nicholas et al., 2010). The present study is an endeavor to understand the University student's awareness, usage, and attitude towards e-books. The study attempts to identify that being in the Age of Information at which level the students in universities of Quetta are aware of the usage of e-book and what are their attitude and behavior toward the usage of the e-book. Raynor et al (2008) investigated the usage level of e-books among medical students specifically of anatomy and physiology found that "It is common practice in medical faculty and Nursing students. They resolve hole of their course-related issues through e-books.

Arosen et al (2016) evaluated the usage attitude of students and faculty members towards e-books in the Faculty of Medicine in the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. The author pointed out that there is much tendency towards using print books and a few of them have no familiarity with e-books. The user's disappointment and exhaustion were due to the weak navigation of e-books.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

#### **Gender Distribution**

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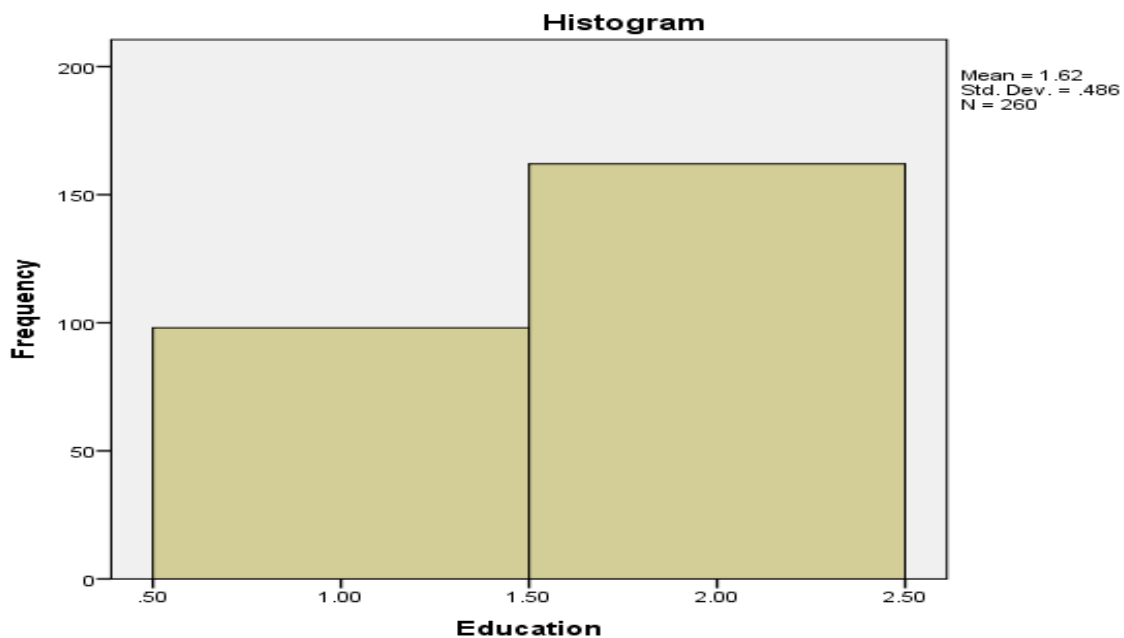
Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
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Male	122	46.9	46.9	46.9
Female	138	53.1	53.1	100.0
Total	260	100.0	100.0	

## Educational Background

		Cumulative			
Educational Background		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	Postgraduate student	98	37.7	37.7	37.7
	Undergraduate student	162	62.3	62.3	100.0
Total		260	100.0	100.0	



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### Age Distribution

AGE of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Up to 20 years	95	36.5	36.5	36.5
21 to 30 years	134	51.5	51.5	88.1
31 to 40 years	31	11.9	11.9	100.0
Total	260	100.0	100.0	

### PERCEPTION OF EBOOKS

Perception	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I also have online access to all e-books; I need to fulfill my academic requirements	260	3.3500	.98473
Because of the easy availability of e-books, I prefer e-books over printed books	260	3.3885	1.09362
most of the time I read print books	260	3.6231	.91124
Using e-books also damage my eyesight which is the drawback of e-books	260	3.6962	1.09226

### TPYES OF EBOOKS

Types of e-books	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I often use research monographs	260	3.0846	1.06568
I regularly use reference works/encyclopedias & Dictionaries	260	3.4423	1.11870
I use textbook/course books	260	3.6577	.85770

### USEAGE OF EBOOKS

Usage of e-books	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
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E-books are easily available over the internet	260	3.3923	1.24891
I use e-books because e-books provided by the library are easy to use	260	3.4692	1.07041
I use e-books because e-books provided by the library are easy to find	260	3.4962	1.11327
I mostly use e-books for my research purpose	260	3.5115	1.09221
I use e-books because it is easily readable on a mobile device	260	3.5577	1.06567
I use e-books because it is easily accessible everywhere	260	3.5654	1.11482
I frequently use e-books	260	3.5808	1.01970
I use e-books because it is easier to download from library databases	260	3.5808	1.06417
I use e-books because it is easy to access using smartphones and tablets	260	3.6923	1.10699

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## **Conclusion**

The findings of the study identified the awareness, usage, and attitudes towards the e-book of university students. This study was comprised of the five selected universities of the capital city of Balochistan where all the respondents of graduates and graduate postgraduate. The survey method was adopted for this study to collect data from the respondents. This study identified that the University students were fully aware of the e-book usage. The findings further highlighted that the University student used e-book different types to fulfill their academic purposes. The University students showed their attitudes as well as they identified some issues and challenges while using e-books. So, it would be recommended that universities should remove these issues to make flexible Wi-Fi for the use of e-books. The University should accommodate their students with connection of the HEC digital library to make use of e-books effectively.

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